

6 February 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 20

I often say at our induction evenings that one of the most important parts of high school is finding your *tribe*—the group of people with whom you feel at home, connected through shared interests, values, and passions. Extra-curricular activities play a vital role in helping students make these connections, and this week's Winter Concert was the perfect reminder of that.



Tuesday's concert was a truly outstanding celebration of the musical life of our school. My sincere thanks go to Ms Tindall and the dedicated team of music instructors and technicians who support her. Their hard work made possible an evening that showcased the exceptional talent of our students across a stunning range of performances—from saxophone ensembles to the soul band, our superb vocalists, and the choir.

During the concert, Ms Tindall spoke about how music provides a place to belong: a shared love of musicianship that draws students together and gives them a sense of identity and community. Watching our students perform with such confidence and joy, it was clear just how true that is.

Engagement and participation in school life—whether through music, sport, drama, clubs, or any of our wider opportunities—help our young people find their tribe. These relationships, formed through shared experiences and collective effort, often become the friendships they carry with them both in school and long after they leave.

The Winter Concert was a wonderful evening and a powerful reminder of what makes our school community so special.

Respect

Attendance

Regular school attendance isn't just about keeping up with learning — it plays a crucial role in helping young people build the friendships and social connections that allow them to thrive.

When students are in school consistently, they are part of the everyday moments that strengthen relationships: shared lessons, group work, lunchtime conversations, extra-curricular activities, and all the informal interactions that help them feel a sense of belonging. These experiences are how students find "their people" and form the friendships that support them throughout their time at QEHS and beyond. Even occasional absences can mean missing out on these important social moments. Being present each day ensures that students stay connected, engaged, and confident within their peer group.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

House update

Mr Jesper

Ms Coleman

Ms Buxton-Collins

Mrs Fraser

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken

Beech

70,917



Birch

71,081



Ash

64,952



Oak

64,001



Sycamore

64,626

Total points per 5 February 2026**Netball success**

After the Year 11 girls winning the county round of the netball league, they represented the school on Sat 31st at the regional round of the competition. In a tough start to the day the girls played the tournament winners first. After this game the girls just got better and better. With a small squad of 8 players everyone needed to work hard and dig deep. Winning three games and losing to second place by only 2 goals and third place by 1 goal made it a very exciting afternoon. The girls eventually finished an impressive 5th place overall and should be very proud of themselves. Great effort and attitude by everyone involved.

**Careers in Sport and Coaching Workshop**

Our year 12 sport cohort were fortunate this week to attend a workshop delivered by an external guest speaker Joe Robinson, Sports Development Officer with the Tynedale Badminton Centre and Northumberland Badminton Association. Our sport students were fantastic in their engagement and, following their session with Joe, were able to consider and reflect on the key elements of an effective coaching session in sport. It was great to hear Joe discussing his career in sports development and the qualifications and route he took to reach his current career path in the field of sport. A brilliant session!



Aspire

National Apprenticeship Week

It is National Apprenticeship Week next week. Check out this link to amazing apprenticeships:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/>

How To Get Better Work Experience Opportunities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H57JhODQnW8>

Career of the week

This week's career of the week was software developer:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/software-developer>

The above link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog'. This includes Labour Market Information (LMI). It is important both parents and students are aware of this as it includes current and predicted figures relating to the profession, particular attention should be paid to the expected growth figure. All students have received a 'Welcome' email from Unifrog. This can be found in their school email account. Please encourage them to activate their account if they haven't already done so. We also have a 'dummy' code for parents. Use 'QEHSparent' on this page: [unifrog.org/code](https://www.unifrog.org/code).

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

The QEHS Parent Teacher and Friends Association is run by volunteer parents/carers, teachers and friends of the school who work together to raise funds to make QEHS an even better environment for students to learn and thrive, engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school community.



Registered Charity 1201950

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts by purchasing refreshments at the recent West Side Story performances and the Winter Concert. A big thank you must also go to all those who very kindly volunteered their time to help out.

If you can spare an hour or two to help out on occasion and would like to join our mailing list to keep up to date with what help is needed when, email gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

Dates for the diary

Thursday 12th February - a **Tuck Shop** at lunchtime to celebrate the last day of the half term - Cash and card payments accepted. Please make sure card accounts are topped up with funds to avoid disappointment! Payment cannot be made through lunch accounts.

Tuesday 3rd March - PTFA meeting, 6pm at The County Hotel, Hexham, in the Residents' Lounge to the left of the front door. Come and meet us, hear how much we've raised, what we're spending it on and help us plan what we do next. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome!

Sunday 15th February - ✨Pop-up Prom Shop ✨ at the Tynedale Hospice Shop, Fore Street 10am-4pm. Come and see a wide selection of pre-loved prom outfits and accessories at great prices. Find the perfect prom look that doesn't cost the earth.



If you have any dresses, suits, shoes or accessories that are no longer wanted, you can either donate them by dropping them off at school, or we can sell them on your behalf for a small seller's fee - please complete this selling form and we will be in touch soon: [selling form](#).

PTFA Lottery - cash prizes every month

Tickets for the lottery are £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is simple and online. For more information and to sign up complete the [online application](#) or email gehsprizedraw@gmail.com



Sixth Form

Art trip to Paris

Our group of our Year 12 Art students spent this week exploring Paris! Visit our [website](#) to see all the fantastic photos of their trip.



Sixth form noticeboard

[The sixth form Noticeboard](#) is regularly updated with new opportunities. Please see two new opportunities for the week ahead:

We rely on parents 'feeding' opportunities into the students, so if an organisation you are involved with is doing something in the future that a young person may find inspiring, please email sixthform@gehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

Online Safety

For Parents - Lemon8 App

Lemon8 is an app which seems to be growing in popularity. Calling itself a 'lifestyle community' app the terms and conditions, as per most social media, is 13+. The company which owns Lemon8 is ByteDance, who also own TikTok and it's essentially a mix between Instagram and TikTok. Reviews generally seem to be quite positive but one of the big downfalls is that parental features are a little lacking.

It's worth checking if your child is using Lemon8 and if so have a look at this [in-depth Lemon8 review](#).

For Parents - New Parental Control Videos

A couple of days ago Internet Matters uploaded 3 new short videos onto YouTube, each focusing on parental controls for YouTube, Roblox and TikTok, the links are:

- [YouTube parental controls top features.](#)
- [The top 3 parental controls to use on Roblox.](#)
- [The top 3 parental controls to use on TikTok.](#)

(by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist).

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 9 February	Parents' Evening	Year 12
Monday 9 February	Taster sessions	Year 9
Wednesday 11 February	Youth Elections 2026	All year groups
Friday 13 February	Teacher Training Day	All year groups
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term Holiday	All year groups
Monday 23 February	School reopens at 08.40am	All year groups

Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please read the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. Find out more on the [Northumberland County Council website](#). To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.



Neil Seaton
Head of School

Pupil support and safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Anne Lloyd
Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown
SENDCo: Mrs Laura Warland

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email admin@gehs.net

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email attendance@gehs.net